

1960

## Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society  
membership@myfloridahistory.org

 Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)  
Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>  
University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact [STARS@ucf.edu](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1960) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 39 : No. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol39/iss1/11>

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Stonewall's Man: Sandie Pendleton.* By W. G. Bean. (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1959. 252 pp. Selected bibliography, index. \$5.00)

THIS BIOGRAPHY OF A MAN, conceded to be one of the most brilliant of Confederate staff officers, who became a special favorite of the almost legendary General "Stonewall" Jackson, is unusual since it contains little of the noise and smell of battle. It is restful to follow the life of such a man without being forced through a repetition of battles which have been described so often.

Dr. Bean, a scholar, has based his narrative chiefly on unpublished, intimate manuscript sources. He has given us a full picture of this soldier's close family life, his gaiety, his devoutly religious nature, his romances, and the lighter side of the staff officers' daily living in camp.

Yet, the work has its disappointments. Why give a whole chapter to the minute details of General Jackson's funeral? Why did this brilliant, well educated young officer have no profound reflections on the war, its causes, its course, its possible results? Why are the qualities in Sandie Pendleton, which endeared him to "Stonewall" Jackson, not made clear?

Despite these criticisms this book is recommended both to the student and the general reader, for its engaging style, content, and its painstaking research.

J. RYAN BEISER

*University of Tampa*

*HISTORY OF KEY WEST, Today and Yesterday.* By Louise V. White and Nora K. Smiley. (St. Petersburg, Fla., Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1959. 104 pp. Illustrations. \$1.00)

"VISITING KEY WEST," begin our lady authors, "either actually, or via the printed pages of a book-seems like having a date with Destiny. To go through the sun and shadow of the city is somewhat similar to being in at the very start of man's recorded history."

“A date with Destiny” permits the reader a feeling of great hopes, which, alas, are not wholly fulfilled. True, Key West offers a colorful parade of peoples, from the elusive Calusa Indians to the present Cuban population-element; and it has seen an array of spectacular activity in the doings of pirates, wreckers and fishermen; but on the whole, the place has tended to be off-stage in the main dramas. This fact would be likely to hamper any historian.

“Brief history” would have been an apter title for this 104-page paper booklet, for it is really a series of historical sketches, each one highlighting an important aspect of Key West’s history. After a Foreword, the topics proceed in a general chronological way, leading off with a section on the Calusa Indians from which one may rightly conclude that not much is known about them. This is followed by a section on pirates, mentioning a few of the most famous names, for their story resembles the saga of the Calusa in its mistiness: “The exact year . . . is not known,” “There may be truth to the statement . . .,” “It is said . . .”. A few early settlers receive notice next-among the names, John Simonton and John Whitehead.

A sizeable portion of the booklet is given over to the various industries that have occupied Key Westers over the years; i.e., sponging, salt making, wrecking, turtling, fishing, cigar making and farming. Recounted in the little review of the wreckers is an amusing island legend of a preacher who, facing the open door of his church, was thus able to spot a wreck before any in the congregation could possibly be aware of it. Leaving the pulpit, he walked deliberately down the aisle and out the door. Before jumping into his boat, he paused long enough to shout back, “A wrack on a reef!” Reading of these several industrial pursuits once vital to Key West, but almost all gone now, must bring some feeling of regret to old-timers of the place.

Brief notes are given on Key West in the Civil War (always referred to as the War Between the States), the Spanish-American War, and the two World Wars, as well as miscellaneous subjects like hurricanes and the economic depression of the 1930’s.

Numerous photographs accompany the text. These have been garnered from the authors themselves, local photographers and the East Martello Gallery and Museum, of which Mrs. White is

the curator. Both authors live in Key West and are enthusiastic, one feels, about their subject. An error or two in punctuation and structure, and one or two lapses into repetition can be noted. More than these, one regrets the absence of a bibliography and an index.

However, these are minor faults, for when printed material on Key West is wanted, there is not much to turn to; therefore, anyone interested in Florida history will welcome this agreeable little book.

KATHLEEN LEATHEN

*Miami Public Library*